

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 SAN SA 04326 182240Z
ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 EUR-08 INR-05 CIAE-00 NSAE-00
HA-02 SY-02 MCT-01 NSC-05 SSO-00 /048 W
-----046173 182256Z /73

P 182210Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9295
INFO AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA PRIORITY

S E C R E T SAN SALVADOR 4326

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT PINS SHUM SW ES ASEC
SUBJ: DEMAND RECEIVED FOR RELEASE OF KIDNAPPED SWEDISH EXECUTIVE

REF: SAN SALVADOR 4264 AND PREVIOUS

1. FOLLOWING INFORMATION KNOWN ONLY TO VERY LIMITED NUMBER
OF PERSONS IN L.M. ERICSSON COMPANY, BJORK FAMILY, SWEDISH
AND U.S. EMBASSIES. SHOULD BE TREATED AS HIGHLY SENSITIVE SINCE
THESE TENTATIVE ARRANGEMENTS AFFECT LIVES AND WELL BEING OF
PERSONS INVOLVED.

2. SWEDISH AMBASSADOR ARNE HELLERYD AND HIS SECOND SECRETARY
CHRISTER PERSSON (BOTH RESIDENT IN GUATEMALA BUT ACCREDITED
TO EL SALVADOR) CALLED ON AMBASSADOR MORNING AUGUST 18 TO
DISCUSS BJORK KIDNAPPING. SWEDES AGREED TO HAVE FIVE
OFFICERS OF EMBASSY STAFF WITH EXPERIENCE IN PREVIOUS
KIDNAPPING CASES PRESENT.

3. AMBASSADOR HELLERYD STATED THAT LETTER HAD
BEEN DELIVERED PREVIOUS DAY (AUGUST 17) TO EMPLOYEE
OF LAWYER OF L.M. ERICSSON AND THETT# MRS BJORK.

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 SAN SA 04326 182240Z

AMBASSADOR DID NOT HAVE COPY OF LETTER BUT AT OUR SUGGESTION
DECIDED TO ATTEMPT ON#FURNISH ONE FOR COMPARISON WITH PREVIOUS
RANSOM NOTES.

4. MAJOR POINTS CONTAINED IN NOTE AS FOLLOWS. ARMED
FORCES OFFTIONAL RESISTANCE (FARN - SAME GROUP THAT
KIDNAPPED JAPANESE BUSINESSMAN MATSUMOTO) CLAIMED CREDIT

FOR KIDNAPPING AND INCLUDED HANDWRITTEN POSTSCRIPT BY BJORK (CLAIMED AUTHENTIC) WHO STATED THAT HE WAS WELL AND NOT INJURED.

5. KIDNAPPERS ASK FOR TWO MILLION COLONES (US \$800,000) IN RANSOM, PART UHSS. AND PART COLONES, SPECIFYING DENOMINATIONS, ONE-HALF TO BE DELIVERED 9:00 AM SATURDAY, BUGUST 19 AND REMAINDER WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 23. NOTE SPECIICALLY NAMETYBFOSE FRIEND OF BJORK WHO IS U.S. EMPLOYEE OF AID MISSION IN EL SALVADOR AS PERSON TO DELIVER FIRST HALF OF RANSOM ON AUGUST 19. NOTE CONTAINED DETAILED INFORMATION ON PROPOSED INTERMEDIARY AND STATED HE WAS TO DRIVE IN HIS OWN CAR ALONG DETAILED ROUTE UNTIL STOPPED BY SOMEONE WHO WOULD COLLECT MONEY.

6. IT WAS AGREED THAT U.S. EMPLOYEE WOULD NOT DELIVER MONEY BUT THAT MRS BJORK WOULD DRIVE ALONG PRESCRIBED ROUTE IN US EMPLOYEE'S CAR. ADDITIONALLY, CAREFULLY WORDED ADS TO BE PLACED IN LOCAL PRESS IN ATTEMPT TO ENSURE KIDNAPPERS WILL MAKE CONTACT AND STILL AVOID GOES INTERFERENCE. EMBASSY OFFICIALS POINTED OUT DANGERS OF THIS APPROACH TO SWEDES BUT THEY FELT BEST APPROACH TO CONTACT KIDNAPPERS. IF SWITCH FAILS AND CONTACT NOT MADE, EMBASSY PLANS TO HAVE U.S. EMPLOYEE AND WIFE ABSENT SELVES TO GUATEMALA TO AVOID POSSIBLE RETALIATION.

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 SAN SA 04326 182240Z

7. COMMENT. SWEDISH OFFICIALS ADMITTED THEY ARE COMPLETELY NAIVE IN THIS TYPE SITUATION AND APPEARED HIGHLY APPRECIATIVE OF EMBASSY WARNINGS AND SUGGESTIONS. NO POLITICAL DEMANDS IN NOTE BUT THERE IS UNFORTUNATELY AMPLE TIME FOR ADDITIONAL CONDITIONS TO BE PLACED ON RELEASE BETWEEN SATURDAY AND WEDNESDAY PAYMENTS. TIME LAG BETWEEN PAYMENTS NOT EXPLAINED IN NOTE AND HAS NOT BEEN UTILIZED PREVIOUSLY BY LOCAL TERRORIST GROUPS. ERICSSON COMPANY PUTTING UP MONEY FOR RANSOM OF WHICH FIRST HALF COULD WELL BE LOST. SWEDISH OFFICIALS MAY MEET AGAIN THIS AFTERNOON WITH EMBASSY OFFICERS AND HAVE PROMISED TO KEEP US PROMPTLY INFORMED OF ALL ACTIONS TAKEN. THEY DO NOT INTEND TO PASS ANY INFORMATION TO GOES.
DEVINE

NOTE BY OC/T: # AS RECEIVED.

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: KIDNAPPING, BUSINESSMEN
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978SANS04326
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780339-0082
Format: TEL
From: SAN SALVADOR
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780848/aaaabnxn.tel
Line Count: 110
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: da5be360-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: 78 SAN SALVADOR 4264
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01 jun 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1693665
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DEMAND RECEIVED FOR RELEASE OF KIDNAPPED SWEDISH EXECUTIVE
TAGS: PINT, PINS, SHUM, ASEC, SW, ES, (BJORK, KJELL)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/da5be360-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014